

special reference to the middle of the transit,—that is, that stations should be selected where at the middle of the transit *Venus* will be most displaced by parallax from and towards the Sun's centre. This differs from Dr. De La Rue's original proposition, in which stress was laid, if I remember rightly, on the determination of the distance of *Venus* at mid-transit from the Sun's centre by the comparison of photographs taken during the whole progress of the transit. What Mr. Garbett proposes is that attention should be directed solely to the determination of the distance of *Venus* from the Sun's centre at the time of mid-transit by several photographs taken during a brief interval including that epoch.

The best available station for the purpose, in a geometrical sense, would be Bouvet Isle, south and somewhat west of Cape Town. But Cape Town would be an excellent station; and I cannot but express a hope that the necessary photographic appliances for this method will be provided there, in addition to those which can be favourably applied at that station for indicating the whole progress of the latter half of the transit. As our excellent late Secretary, Mr. Stone, is in command there, we may be sure that the fullest and most satisfactory use would be made of any appliances so provided.

Note on the Discovery of Minor Planet (131).

By E. Dunkin, Esq.

The following memorandum has been drawn up at the request of the Astronomer Royal, as an illustration of the successful working of the Convention relating to cable telegrams of important astronomical discoveries recently agreed upon between the Smithsonian Institution and the Directors of the Transatlantic Cable Companies.

On 1873, May 26, the following telegram was received by the Astronomer Royal from Dr. Henry, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, announcing the discovery of a new planet (131):—

“Planet sixteen fourteen south twenty one eighteen, motion due west eleventh.”

These words were at once forwarded by telegraph to the Observatories of Paris, Berlin, Kiel, Vienna, and Pulkowa, and by post to the principal English Observatories.

The following communication has since been received by the Astronomer Royal from Dr. Förster, Director of the Observatory of Berlin:—

“With my best thanks for your telegraphic communication of the discovery of Planet (131), I beg to send you two observations taken at our Observatory:—

Mean Time Berlin.	α appar.	δ appar.
d h m s	h m s	° ' "
1873, May 29 12 54 26	16 11 20.23	-21 18 41.1
,, 31 13 2 21	16 9 16.06	-21 18 55.5"

The planet has been also observed in Europe, at the Observatory of Marseilles, by M. Borelly, and at the Observatory of Leipzig, by Dr. Börgen. It was discovered by Dr. C. H. F. Peters at Clinton, New York.

Kidbrooke, Blackheath,
1873, June 11.

Errata.

- Page 417, line 15 from bottom, *for* 'our,' *read* 'an.'
- 418, 15 from top, *for* 'irregular meniscus figure,' *read* 'irregular (sphere + meniscus) figure.'
- 423, 18 from top, *for* 'us,' *read* 'as.'
- 423, 23 from top, *for* 'But,' *read* 'By.'

Notice.

Mr. Proctor, Editor of the *Monthly Notices*, having been invited by the Literary and Scientific Bureau of New York to deliver a course of Lectures on Astronomy in America, commencing next October, begs to give notice that letters and papers forwarded after the end of the first week in September should in all cases be addressed to Mr. Dunkin, Honorary Secretary.